Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BERN 00327 231638Z

51
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NEA-06 IO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 PM-03

SP-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 RSC-01 /054 W
---------- 010890
O P 231616Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 138
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
JEC PARIS PRIORITY 1645
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T BERN 0327

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, ICRC
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PLO ISSUE AT GENEVA LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 015151

1. POLCOUNS CALLED ON PICTET IN FPD AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY JANUARY 23 TO SEEK CONFIRMATION OF NY TIMES STORY. PICTET SAID THAT STORY HAD BROKEN JANUARY 21 IN TWO BEIRUT PAPERS, L'ORIENT DU JOUR AND ANNAHAR, WITH FACSIMILE PRINT OF LETTER THAT KADDOUMI, HEAD OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OF PLO, HAD SENT TO FONMIN GRABER IN MID-DECEMBER 1974. LETTER WAS SHORT AND ONLY NOTED PLO'S ACCESSION TO FOUR GENEVA CONVENTIONS. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF ANY RESERVATIONS. LETTER ASKED SWISS TO TAKE NOT OF ACCESSION AND TO INFORM THE STATES PARTY TO THE CONVENTIONS. PICTET SAID HE COULD NOT LET US HAVE COPY, BUT VOUCHED FOR FACT THAT TEXT APPEARING IN BEIRUT PAPERS WAS ACCURATE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BERN 00327 231638Z

2. PICTET SAID THAT LETTER WAS CURRENTLY UNDER STUDY IN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

FPD. THE SWISS ARE TRYING TO FIND OUT WHETHER LEAK IN
BEIRUT WAS DELIBERATE TO PUT PRESSURE ON GOS TO TAKE ACTION
ON IT, OR WHETHER PLO IS EMBARRASSED BY IT AND WANTS TO DROP
THE MATTER. FPD HAS BEEN SITTING ON THE LETTER FOR A WHOLE
MONTH AND OBVIOUSLY HOPED THE PLO ISSUE WOULD SIMPLY GO
AWAY. FPD EVIDENTLY INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT LEAK WAS
DELIBERATE, BUT BEFORE TAKING ANY DECISION WANTS TO EXHAUST
ALL POSSIBILITIES.

3. PICTET SAID THAT GOS FEELS COMPELLED TO TAKE SOME
DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO CIRCULATE THE PLO'S LETTER
BEFORE THE LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE OPENS ON FEBRUARY 3. HE
THOUGHT A DECISION LIKELY, THEREFORE, BEFORE END OF NEXT
WEEK. PICTET AGREED THAT TIMING OF PLO MOVE STRONGLY
SUGGESTED THAT ITS CHIEF INTEREST WAS TO GAIN ENTRY INTO
THE CONFERENCE. PICTET ASKED WHETHER USG WAS PLANNING
WORLDWIDE INITIATIVE WITH RESPECT TO PLO, SIMILAR TO CURRENT
EFFORT TO PREVENT INVITATIONS TO PRG. POLCOUNS REPLIED WE
DID NOT KNOW, BUT THAT USG WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE VERY
CONCERNED IF PLO'S REQUEST WERE COMPLIED WITH AND IT
WERE INVITED TO CONFERENCE. PICTET THEN ASKED, "ON
PERSONAL BASIS" THAT USG REFRAIN FROM SUCH EFFORT UNTIL
GOS DECIDES THE ISSUE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. USG EFFORT
TO BLOCK THE PLO BEFORE SWISS DECISION BECOMES KNOWN
COULD "EMBARRASS" THE GOS.

4. WE DETECT NOTICEABLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ATTITUDE SWISS
TOOK REGARDING THE PRG'S PLOY, AND THE POSITION THEY SEEM
TO BE TAKING VIS-A-VIS THE PLO. PICTET WAS AT PAINS TO
POINT OUT THAT PLO REQUEST WAS UNPRECEDENTED SINCE IT WAS
ONLY AN ORGANIZATION, AND NOT A COUNTRY OR "POWER" WITHIN
MEANING OF GENEVA CONVENTION RULES. HE
CONSTRASTED THIS WITH EARLIER REQUESTS FROM PRG, ALGERIAN
LIBERATION FRONT, AND GUINEA-BISSAU, WHERE GOS CIRCULATED
"PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT'S" REQUEST TO STATES PARTY TO THE
CONVENTIONS. FROM THIS AND FACT THAT GOS HAS BEEN SITTING
ON THE PLO'S LETTER FOR A MONTH, WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE
THAT GOS MAY WELL DECIDE NOT TO COMPLY WITH THE PLO'S REQUEST.

5. WE WILL IN ANY CASE FOLLOW UP EARLY NEXT WEEK WITH
SECRET

SECRET

MONNIER, WHO WILL BE CHARGED WITH THE PROBLEM IN PICTET'S
ABSENCE IN LONDON NEXT WEEK.
PERCIVAL

SECRET

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, WAR, PRESS COMMENTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERN00327
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750025-0992
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750128/aaaaayes.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 015151
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE PLO ISSUE AT GENEVA LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE
TAGS: PARM, ICRC, PLO, NE YORK TIMES
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006